

MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and of the
CHIEF SANITARY OFFICER AND BUILDING SURVEYOR
for the year
1950

Margaret C. Fell,
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt,
Chief Sanitary Officer &
Building Surveyor.



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RURAL DISTRICT OF MARTLEY

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1950.

Public Health Department,
1 The Tything,
Worcester.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Martley Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Rural District for the year 1950.

The report is divided into the following sections:-

- Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.
- Section B. General Provision of Health Services for the area.
- Section C. Sanitary Circumstances of the area.
- Section D. Housing.
- Section E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- Section F. Prevalence of and control over Infectious Disease.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The rural district of Martley, comprising 52,838 acres, is predominantly agricultural in character and lies to the West of the city of Worcester. The River Teme running from West to East divides the district into two parts.

Of the 27 parishes in the area, only North Hallow and St. John in Bedwardine have a population of more than 1,000

The chief industry is agriculture and the district is one of the most important fruit and hop growing areas in the country. Each year the hop-picking season attracts large numbers of people to the district and these come mainly from the Black Country.

The health of your district continues to be good and vital statistics for the year are given in the following tables.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres.....	52,83
Number of inhabited houses(1st April, 1951)	
According to Rate Book.....do.....	3,51
Rateable Value.....do.....	£39,33
Sum represented by one penny rate....do.....	£158
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1950).....	11,67

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births</u>			
Legitimate.....	78	95	173
Illegitimate.....	10	7	17
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population.....			16.29
Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period.....			15.80
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Still Births</u>			
Legitimate.....	-	3	3
Illegitimate.....	1	1	2
Rate per 1,000 estimated population.....			0.4
Rate per 1,000 England and Wales.....			0.3
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Deaths.</u>			
From all causes.....	73	72	145
Rate per 1,000 estimated population.....			12.4
Rate for England and Wales.....			11.6
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Deaths of infants under 1 year of age</u>			
Legitimate.....	1	3	4
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-
Infantile Mortality Rate for the Year.....			21.0
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for the same Period.....			29.8
<u>Deaths from Special Causes.</u>			1950
Deaths from Cancer.....			2
Deaths from Measles.....			Ni
Deaths from Whooping Cough.....			Ni

Causes of Death as classified by the Registrar General

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	4	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	-	-
Syphilitic Diseases.....	1	-
Diphtheria.....	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	-	-
Meningococcal infections.....	1	-
Acute Polio-myelitis.....	-	-
Measles.....	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	-
Cancer of Stomach.....	3	3
Cancer of Lung.....	-	-
Cancer of Breast.....	-	2
Cancer of Uterus.....	-	2
Cancer of All other Sites.....	5	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	-
Diabetes.....	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	1	5
Coronary disease, angina.....	5	5
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	1
Other heart disease.....	21	12
Other circulatory disease.....	6	3
Influenza.....	-	-
Pneumonia.....	1	1
Bronchitis.....	4	4
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	1	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.....	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis.....	-	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate.....	3	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	1
Congenital malformations.....	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	7	14
Road traffic accidents.....	3	1
All other accidents.....	2	1
Suicide.....	2	1
Homicide & operations of war.....	-	1

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Public Health Staff of the Authority

Margaret C. Fell, MB., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
Chief Sanitary Officer & Building Surveyor.

W. F. Acres, M.S.I.A., L.R.San.I.
Additional Sanitary Officer.

Mrs. B. Kirk.
Shorthand/Typist & Clerk.

H. G. Dew.
Assistant Rodent Officer.

2. Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, (Part III), the following services are provided by the County Council:-

(a) Ambulance Service

(b) Home Nursing & Health Visiting Service

Seven district nurse/midwives work in the Rural District. They attend maternity cases and cases of general illness and in most instances they carry out the duties of Health Visitor for their district.

(c) Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria can be undertaken, free of charge, by the patient's own doctor, or at one of the County Council's Clinics.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and Young Children

The district is served by the County Council's ante-natal clinics at Worcester, Malvern, and Stourport-on-Severn, and by Infant Welfare Clinics at Worcester, Hallow, Broodheath, Areley Kings, Great Witley and Clifton-on-Feme. The County Council's Mobile Infant Welfare Clinic visits Martley and the Leigh and Bransford districts.

3. Hospitals

The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Kidderminster.

Cases of Infectious Disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.

Maternity cases can be admitted to the Lucy Baldwin Hospital at Stourport-on-Severn, the Mary Stevens Maternity Home at Stourbridge and the All Saints Maternity Home at Bromsgrove.

SECTION B (contd)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA (contd)

4. National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47)

No action was taken by the Council under this section of the Act during the year.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply.

A water supply which is adequate in both quality and quantity is lacking in the greater part of the Martley Rural District and in order to overcome this defect the Council have resolved to proceed with the provision of a comprehensive water scheme, prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer, which will bring a wholesome and abundant supply of water to all parts of the district.

I regard the provision of this water supply as an urgent necessity for the district. At the present time, only three parishes in the district obtain any of their water supply from public mains.

North Hallow is supplied with water from Worcester County Borough, the source of this water is the River Severn and it proved adequate both in quality and quantity throughout the year.

Clifton-on-Teme derives its water supply from a spring situated to the West of the village - this supply is adequate in quantity. Records taken for analysis of samples during the past twelve years show that the quality of this water varied from time to time.

Four houses in the parish of Leigh Sinton have a main supply from Malvern Urban District.

The remainder of the Rural District derives its water supply mainly from shallow wells. In some parts of the district the water from these shallow wells is inadequate in quantity and water carting becomes necessary. Of 39 samples taken from these wells during the year, 28 were classified as unsatisfactory by the County Analyst.

In several villages in the district the building of new houses is being prevented by the lack of an adequate water supply.

2. Sewerage

New Sewage Disposal Works for the Rushwick area in the Parish of St. John were completed and eighty properties connected during the year.

SECTION C (contd)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (contd)

2. Sewerage (Contd)

The work on New Sewage Disposal Works at Martley was begun during the year.

A Ministry of Health enquiry into the proposed sewerage scheme for the Broadheath area was held during the year. A new sewage disposal plant is now necessary for the Village of Clifton-on-Teme.

The following table gives particulars of the water supply and methods of sewage disposal in the district. (see page 7)

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Fifty one new houses were built in the district during 1950, thirty-four by the Local Authority, seventeen by other persons.

The need for more houses in the district is still acute and there are a number of bad cases of overcrowding on the waiting list. In addition, there are many unfit houses which should be dealt with by Demolition Order. It is hoped that it will be possible to take action in this matter when the housing situation improves.

The housing of tuberculosis patients in suitable conditions and the relief of overcrowding in tuberculosis households is of the greatest importance both from the point of view of the well-being of the patient and in order to prevent the spread of the disease to other members of the community.

The following table shows the housing work carried out in the district during the year:-

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

1	By the Local Authority..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
2	By other bodies or persons	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	17

Inspection of Dwelling Houses:-

1	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	..	53
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.	..	98
2	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	..	..	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.	..	Nil

Parish	From Public Mains				From private supplies e.g. wells, springs.	Sewerage and Sewage Disposal					
	Direct to Houses	By means of stand-pipe	No. of dwell- houses	Popu- lation		No. of dwell- con- nec- tion Public sewer	Popula- tion served.	No. of houses with			
								Pails	Cess pits etc	Private instal- lations.	
Abberley	-	-	-	-	154	498	-	-	112	39	3
Alfrick	-	-	-	-	151	479	-	-	113	37	1
Astley	-	-	-	-	372	997	-	-	296	60	16
Bransford	-	-	-	-	87	276	-	-	67	20	-
Broadwas	-	-	-	-	84	255	-	-	62	21	1
Clifton-on-Teme	78	273	20	66	44	106	74	260	61	6	1
Cotheridge	-	-	-	-	59	199	-	-	41	18	1
Doddenham	-	-	-	-	79	268	-	-	61	16	2
Grimley	-	-	-	-	183	614	-	-	131	51	1
Hallow, North	110	437	-	-	370	1152	184	655	240	44	12
Hillhampton	-	-	-	-	33	108	-	-	25	7	1
Holt	-	-	-	-	108	340	-	-	75	17	16
Kenswick	-	-	-	-	7	26	-	-	4	3	-
Knightwick	-	-	-	-	43	140	-	-	38	5	-
Leigh	4	14	-	-	284	978	27	104	217	40	4
Lulsley	-	-	-	-	46	146	-	-	41	5	-
Martley	-	-	-	-	270	875	-	-	222	33	16
St. Johns.	1	2	-	-	241	901	80	335	117	38	7
Lower Sapey	-	-	-	-	61	151	-	-	43	9	9
Shelsley Beau.	-	-	-	-	68	222	-	-	59	9	1
Shelsley Kings	-	-	-	-	80	259	-	-	72	7	-
Shelsley Walsh	-	-	-	-	20	52	-	-	18	2	-
Shrawley	-	-	-	-	151	506	-	-	135	15	1
Suckley	-	-	-	-	151	529	-	-	121	12	18
Wichenford	-	-	-	-	103	332	-	-	92	10	1
Witley, Great	-	-	-	-	108	371	20	76	61	25	2
Witley, Little	-	-	-	-	50	157	-	-	36	6	8
Totals	193	726	20	66	3407	10,937	385	1430	2560	554	121

SECTION D. (contd)

HOUSING (contd)

Inspection of Dwelling Houses (continued)

3	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
4	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..	48

2 Remedy of defects without service of formal notices:-

1	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	Nil
2	Number of houses where urgent repairs carried out by informal action	26

3 Action under Statutory Powers

(A) Proceedings under sections, 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
2	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By Owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.. .. .	17
2	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By Owners	11
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	4

(C) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
2	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
3	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings accepted	3

HOUSING(continued)

(D) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936

- | | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 1 | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms
in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| 2 | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms
in respect of which Closing Orders were made det-
ermined, the tenement or room having been rendered
fit | Nil |

4 Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-

- | | | |
|--------|--|------------|
| (a)(i) | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of
this year |) } Not Kn |
| (ii) | Number of families dwelling therein | |
| (iii) | Number of persons dwelling therein | |
| (b) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported
during the year | 3 |
| (c)(i) | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved
during the year | 10 |
| (ii) | Number of persons concerned in such cases | 55 |
| (iii) | Number of houses again overcrowded after being
previousley relieved | Nil |

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Regular inspections of premises where food is prepared, stored and sold were made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory. A detailed account of this work is given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Diphtheria Immunisation

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, children can be immunised against diphtheria, free of charge by their own doctor or at one of the County Council's clinics.

SECTION F. (contd.)

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Diphtheria Immunisation(continued)

The following table shows the number of children who were immunised during the year in the district:-

Number of children who completed a course of primary immunisation in the Authority's area during 1950.		Number of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection during the year.	
Age at final injection.		Total.	Under 14 years
Under 5	5-14		
119	6	125	62

No case of diphtheria occurred in the Rural District during the year.

Vaccination

One hundred and twenty-eight persons received a primary vaccination and sixteen were re-vaccinated in the Rural District during the year.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable disease in the district during the year:-

Section F. Infectious Disease

The Incidence of cases of Notifiable Disease during 1950 is shown in the following Table.

	Under one year.	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	65-	Total cases notif- ied.
1. Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Scarlet Fever	-	1	3	10	3	-	1	-	18
3. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Acute Primary Pneumonia	1	2	1	1	3	1	11	3	23
7. Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Measles (Excluding Rubella)	3	7	23	57	5	4	2	-	101
10 Whooping Cough	7	13	13	31	-	1	1	-	66
11 Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12 Dysentery	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
13 Ophthalmis Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during 1950.

Age Period	New cases				Deaths ‡			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5				1				
15		1	1					
25	5				2		1	
45								
55	2							
65 and upwards								
TOTALS	7	1	1	1	2	-	1	-

‡Compiled from the Tuberculosis Register
and Local Registrar's Death Returns.

Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register
at the end of the year.

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Annual Totals.
	M	F	M	F	
1947	29	26	14	16	85
1948	30	24	18	17	89
1949	28	26	16	17	87
1950	33	27	15	18	93

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MARGARET C. FELL.

MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY OFFICER AND BUILDING SURVEYOR

Public Health Department,
1 The Tything,
Worcester.

September, 1951.

To the Rural District Council of Martley

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my fourth annual report on the work of my Department in relation to the administration of the Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

The attached report will show that, whilst there were no major innovations during the year, the health of the district remained remarkably good. Some credit for this must be claimed for the "preventitive" side, as opposed to the "curative" side, of the health organisation, in which is included control of housing, water supplies, sewage disposal and general hygiene matters. The Public Health Department is concerned primarily in this type of work and, whilst it is desired to carry out many improvements, the number of routine duties makes it difficult to make any rapid progress in this field. These routine duties include far too much clerical work for your technical officers and this is detrimental to the practical side of their work. As suggested on frequent occasions, the solution lies in the employment of better qualified clerical assistance which would, I am sure, prove more economical in the long run.

There are indications that other authorities are attempting to usurp some of the functions for which the Local Authority are entirely responsible; it is difficult to give definite examples of this as the method would appear to be one of gradual infiltration, especially in matters relating to public health. It is imperative that, in the interests of the residents in the district, every effort should be made to keep these matters in the hands of the local authority.

The only new legislation of any note passed during the year where full responsibility was placed on the Local Authority was the Rats & Mice Destruction Act. This is not an Act which arouses much enthusiasm with Rural Authorities but it is hoped that it may be the first step towards the decentralisation of more important matters.

The decision of the Council to proceed with a comprehensive scheme of water supply is probably the most momentous in the history of the Council and may result in great changes taking place which can not be foreseen at the present. It is hoped that when the scheme is submitted for Government approval, little delay will result in the sinking of a trial borehole and that a start can be made in providing water in those areas where it is required so urgently. Initial steps have been taken during the year to overcome the difficulties of sewage disposal in those districts where the provision of works are most necessary. Progress on such works is necessarily slow owing to the various authorities

and departments who have to be consulted and whose requirements must be satisfied; it is necessary to have a number of meetings on each proposal and these take up much valuable time.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation of the encouragement and consideration of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee in particular and of the Council generally and for the co-operation and assistance of the other members of the Council's staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. L. PRATT,

Chief Sanitary Officer,
Building Surveyor.

The arrangement whereby the Council carried out duties delegated to them by the County Council under the Town and Country Planning Act was continued during the year. This arrangement continued to work smoothly as is shown by the fact that in only two cases was there a difference of opinion between the Planning Committee of this Council and the County Planning Officer which had to be referred to the County Planning Committee; in both cases the Planning Officer's opinion was confirmed by the County Planning Committee.

The delegation of these powers has increased the work in my department but this is compensated by the use which can be made of local knowledge in ensuring that applications receive full consideration and, eventually, a decision which is not based simply on broad planning principles. The inspection of sites by a Sub-Committee where difficulty was experienced in arriving at a decision, is a practice to be commended and has resulted on several occasions in the avoidance of appeals or differences of opinion with the County Planning Officer.

The General Development Order 1950, which came into force on the 22nd May, 1950, resulted in a reduction in the number of applications to develop. This Order allowed certain building work to be carried out without specific Planning Permission, including small additions or enlargements to private houses, the erection of agricultural buildings etc., and, although some difficulty was experienced with regard to applications for permission not being made for such work under the Building Byelaws, the general effect was to remove one of the sources of annoyance to persons desiring to carry out minor works.

Deliberate contraventions of the Planning Act or Building Byelaws were few and only 3 enforcement notices were issued, two of which were complied with during the year. One outstanding enforcement notice was complied with during the same period.

Two appeals to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning were made after the refusal by the Planning Committee to permit development. In the first case the Committee's decision was upheld and the appeal dismissed and in the second the appeal was allowed with certain reservations.

The County Council, in co-operation with this Council, made several Tree Preservation Orders on parts of estates which were to be sold by auction, and thus preserved the amenities in areas of high scenic beauty.

	<u>Applications to Develop</u>		
	<u>Plans for new construction.</u>	<u>Preliminary Enquiries.</u>	<u>Change of use of land & buildings.</u>
Brought forward from 1949	3	-	1
Received during 1950	95	28	13
Total Applications	98	28	14 140

1 TOWN PLANNING AND BUILDING BYELAWS(Contd.)

Applications to Develop

	<u>Plans for new construction</u>	<u>Preliminary Enquiries</u>	<u>Change of use of land and buildings.</u>	
Applications approved	83	20	9	
Applications refused	11	6	4	
Applications outstanding	4	2	1	
Total	98	28	14	140

Building Byelaws

Brought forward from 1949	-	
Received during 1950	75	75
Applications approved	71	
Applications refused	-	
Applications outstanding	4	75

2 HOUSING

A. Building Licensing

The functions delegated to this Authority by the Ministry of Health continued to be carried out by this department on the same lines as previously.

The Council's allocation for new houses for the year was 41 and licences were issued for private houses in the ratio as laid down by the Ministry. In addition 7 applications for assistance under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Acts ("Subsidy House") were approved.

Owing to over-issuing in previous years no new house licences were permitted to private developers and I must draw the attention of the Council to the number of applicants for such licences, many of whom have obtained sites and had plans approved. The provision of these houses is entirely dependant on the speed with which Council Houses are erected. The Ministry have shown that when the normal allocation has been utilised and there is labour available to build more houses, they will issue a supplementary allocation. The number of Council Houses completed during the year was 34 whilst 17 private houses (including subsidy houses) were completed and occupied; it will be necessary to double, at least, the number of Council Houses erected before the needs of

A. Building Licensing

all applicants, can be met.

The "Free Allowance" of £100 per house for repairs remains in force but a reduction of 20% on the total amount of licences issued during 1949 for repairs, conversions etc., was ordered by the Ministry. The full effect of this reduction has not yet been felt but it is anticipated that it will cause further deterioration in the state of repair of houses generally, prevent the issuing of comprehensive Statutory Notices for repairs, and may prohibit the provision of new housing accommodation by the conversion of buildings into dwellings.

	<u>No. of Licences</u>	<u>Amount</u> £
New Houses	-	-
Conversions & additional Accommodation.	22	12,810
House repairs (over £100)	25	7,034
Other repairs, supplementary Licences etc.	8	1,985
	<hr/> 55	<hr/> 21,829 <hr/>

B. Housing

The general standard of repair of the older type of dwelling house continued to deteriorate and this, in my opinion, is mainly due to the controlling of rents at the pre-war level and the high cost of building. The policy of attempting to keep a large number of houses in a condition just fit for occupation by asking only for the repair of urgent defects has been continued. It is thought that, by this policy, the general standard of repair will be maintained at a higher level than would be the case if a few houses only were brought up to the required standard.

There are still several houses in the district on which demolition orders have been served and which are licensed for occupation and this presents an urgent problem as their condition in every case is very poor. The majority of the occupants have applied for a Council house but many of them are not natives of the district and, although they have been strongly recommended, so far not one has been successful.

It is disappointing that better use has not been made of the Improvement Grants Authorised by the Housing Act 1949 but it is thought that this is due, in this District, to the fact that houses improved in this way will no longer be "Tied" and this has prevented many agricultural cottages from being considered. The high standard to which cottages must be raised has also been a deterrent and, although this is most desirable from a

2 HOUSING (Cotd.)

B. Housing

health point of view, in many cases it is impracticable if the work is not to cost more than £600. The Licensing position would be seriously affected if many of these improvements were to be carried out and it would appear reasonable that such work should be freed from the licensing provisions.

If any great improvement is to be made in the general standard of housing accommodation in the district the following provisions must be made:-

1. A greater number of Council Houses.
2. Use to be made by the Council of their powers to purchase cottages. These could then be kept in a reasonably habitable condition until the tenants were re-housed.
3. Freedom from the licensing restrictions for:-
 1. Repairs to unsatisfactory houses of £12 rateable value and under.
 2. All improvements under the Housing Act 1949.
 3. The conversion of buildings to dwellings.
4. The amendment of legislation to bring the rents of houses in line with wages, building costs, etc.

C. Rehousing

I am pleased to record an improvement in the rate of rehousing persons living in overcrowded houses or in houses which are structurally dangerous or in bad condition. This has been due to greater co-operation between the Public Health and Housing Committees in the allocation of Council houses and I should like here to express my appreciation of the assistance given to me by the Chairman and members of the Housing Committee and the Housing Manager.

All applications for Council Houses are now considered by this department and recommendations made to the Housing Committee, some of these recommendations are also supported by the Public Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health, and in this way a further check is possible on housing conditions generally throughout the district. In all cases where the applicants complain of overcrowded conditions or defective houses these are visited and the owners asked to remedy the defects whether or not the tenant is rehoused.

The following table shows the number of persons rehoused for reasons of Public Health:-

For reasons of overcrowding	7
For reasons of bad housing conditions	7
For reasons of ill health	1
Total	<hr/> 15 <hr/>

2 HOUSING(Contd.)

C. Rehousing

The total number of lettings by the Housing Committee during the year was 53 and of these 28% have been allocated to Public Health cases.

3. DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

A. House Drainage

The usual supervision has been exercised over all new house drainage schemes and details of the numbers of houses connected to public sewers etc., are contained in the report of the Medical Officer.

Several cases where the pollution of streams was being caused by the effluent from septic tanks were reported and an attempt was made to purify the effluent as far as possible. Difficulty is experienced in areas where the sub-soil will not filter the effluent and the installation of some type of filter is the only solution possible in such cases.

During the year 39 Septic Tanks were installed and 18 houses connected to Public Sewers; in all cases the works were carried out in a satisfactory manner.

B. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Rushwick

75 Houses are now connected to the Public Sewer in this district, which is about 80% of the total number of houses on the line of the sewer.

This new scheme is working well except that, owing to the fact that there is no piped water supply, the flow in the sewers is sluggish and this is causing some complaints of smell arising from the manholes. The only solution to this problem is by flushing the sewers and this was carried out at various points.

North Hallow

Further improvements to the disposal works were carried out during the year in an attempt to improve the quality of the effluent. The works are over-loaded to a certain extent and this, together with the lack of sufficient sludge drying beds, renders the production of a satisfactory effluent difficult. The quality of the effluent has however improved considerably during the past two years and, with the provision of further sludge drying facilities, should be capable of being maintained in this condition without making any additions to the works.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (Contd)

North Hallow (contd)

Difficulty has been experienced in getting materials to the works as the Council did not possess any right of way over adjoining land but it has now been agreed with the County Council for a right of way to be granted and a service road constructed.

Broadheath

The scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer for the sewerage of the whole of the parish was the subject of a Local Enquiry by the Ministry of Health. Later the Council were informed by the Ministry that the installation of the scheme would have to be deferred indefinitely but that a portion of it could be installed to serve the School. The Council considered that the area where a long-standing nuisance was being caused by untreated sewage being discharged into ponds and ditches also warranted similar treatment and permission has now been given for an additional sewer to be laid in this area. The necessary drawings and documents are in course of preparation.

Clifton-on-Teme.

Following complaints by adjoining owners of the pollution of a stream and pond used for cattle watering by the effluent from the irrigation field, a detailed scheme for treatment works was prepared. The estimated cost of the works was £7,500 and the scheme was approved by the Council and submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Martley

The scheme for the enlargement of the Sewage Treatment Works and the laying of sewers in the Jury Lane area was approved by the Ministry and work was commenced on the 29th August. Although it was estimated that the work would be completed within 3 months, by the end of the year there was still much to be done. Bad weather conditions and the presence of water, running sand, and rock all contributed to the slow progress, but the main difficulty was the lack of an adequate labour force.

At the request of the County Council a preliminary investigation was carried out for the extension of the Jury Lane Sewer for the benefit of property owned by them. This extension was approved in principle by the Council and details are being prepared.

Leigh Sinton

The provision of treatment works and the extension of existing sewers will have to be considered for this area as serious pollution is now being caused to Carey's Brook into which the existing sewer discharges. The present system which serves several houses, including a small Council Housing Estate, consists of small settlement tanks spaced along the line of the sewer and this method does not prevent the discharge of crude sewage into the brook, which is used for watering cattle. It is likely that some complaint may be made by the Severn Rivers Board in the near future, and it would be advisable to have a preliminary scheme prepared for inclusion in the Council's programme of future works.

4 WATER SUPPLIES

Private Supplies

As shown in the report of the Medical Officer, 55 samples of water from private sources were submitted for examination, and 37 of these were found to be unsatisfactory. This does not necessarily mean that 67% of all private water supplies in the district are unsatisfactory, as sampling usually takes place from sources which are suspect or about which complaints have been received. These results, however, combined with others over a number of years, show that there is an urgent need for an improvement in the supply of drinking water throughout the district as a whole.

In the parish of Martley several sources were found to be deteriorating in quality and it was decided to sample all wells within that area. In all six wells were sampled within a radius of 100 yards and every one was found to be polluted with faecal type coli. This example shows the problem which must be faced in the very near future.

Public Supplies.

Details of the number of houses supplied from public mains are given in the report of the Medical Officer. No extensions or alterations to these supplies were made during the year.

The scheme for supplying ten parishes in the central area of the district with water obtained from the City of Worcester was prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer. This scheme was carefully considered by the Council but was finally rejected on the grounds that it would be more expensive proportionately than a comprehensive scheme which would cover a much larger area.

A comprehensive scheme which had been prepared for supplying the whole of the Council's area north of the river Teme had been rejected in 1949 as being too expensive. This scheme was considered again by the Council who finally decided that it should be approved and forwarded to the Ministry of Health with the addition of the parishes south of the river Teme.

WATER SUPPLIES (Contd)

Public Supplies(contd)

Thus the whole of the Council's area will be served. Approval is being sought in the first instance for the sinking of a trial bore hole at Astley.

During the year proposals were made to survey areas in the parish of Abberley with a view to commencing open-cast mining. The Council were seriously concerned with the effect on local water supplies and made their views known to the Ministry of Health. An examination of existing supplies in the affected area was made and records kept for future reference.

A, Clifton-on-Teme

The quantity of water pumped during the year for use in this parish was 2,393,500 gallons as compared with 2,341,200 gallons in 1949. The spring forming the source of the supply proved adequate and no shortage occurred during the year.

Owing to heavy pumping costs and to the condition of the long rising main, consideration was given to the provision of a bore hole in the village and the services of a geologist were employed for this purpose. In his report the geologist said, "There is no site nearer the village where a large supply of water can be expected, but it is possible that 1000 gallons per hour might be obtained by a 10 inch bore-hole 300 to 400 feet in depth. The water will be hard. The Council must be prepared to risk failure". It was decided that the risk of failure was too great and the possibility of electrifying the existing plant and make it semi-automatic was investigated. The sum of £600 was required by the Midland Electricity Board for extending the supply to the pump house and this high cost, together with the new plant which would be required, made this scheme uneconomical. The Council decided to defer any action until the fate of the comprehensive water scheme is known; if this scheme is installed it will be possible to boost water to the Clifton reservoir and thus eliminate entirely the existing pumping plant and long rising main.

North Hallow

The mains and supply to a part of this parish are controlled by the City of Worcester. A small number of premises were connected to the mains during the year. The maximum of 56,000 gallons per week was exceeded but no curtailment of the water supply was imposed.

Refuse Collection

The scheme for regular fortnightly collection in six parishes, at two monthly intervals in seventeen parishes and at three monthly intervals in four parishes was continued during the current year. During the early part of the year difficulty was experienced in maintaining collections as published owing to illness amongst the employees. Temporary labour for this type of work is difficult to obtain and, as there is no reserve labour amongst the Council's employees, the outlying parishes did not receive proper attention and a number of complaints were received.

Some assistance was given to Bromyard R.D.C. in the collection of refuse from a housing estate and this continued for several months until that Authority put into operation their own scheme of collection.

B. Refuse Storage

The scheme for supplying dust-bins to the public at cost price plus a small delivery charge was continued, the bins being carried on the vehicles and sold for cash. Only 44 bins were sold during the year. The use of all types of containers for storing refuse adds to the time taken in collection and has been the cause of several minor accidents to the collectors. The use of standard dust-bins should be made compulsory but it is difficult to say how this can be done. It would be necessary to issue Statutory Notices to all householders not having a standard bin and this would be beyond the capabilities of the staff now employed in this department. The Council could set a good example in this way by providing dust-bins to all Council Houses where a fortnightly collection operates and it is hoped that this will be considered in the near future.

C. Refuse Disposal

Two refuse tips were filled during the year and difficulty is being experienced in finding new sites, especially in the southern part of the area.

Difficulty is also being experienced in finding labour and material for the proper covering of tips now being operated and soil for the top dressing of tips which have been completed. It may be necessary in the future to employ a haulage contractor for this purpose; the additional cost will be worth while as it is only by this means that proper control of the tips can be maintained.

D. Salvage

During the early part of the year the sale of salvaged materials was very small owing to the bad market but later on the sale of paper at reasonable prices became possible again. The continuance of the collection of paper and its storage was justified as all stocks were eventually cleared.

Increased publicity for the saving of salvage was carried out

5 PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE(contd)

D Salvage(contd)

towards the end of the year and it is hoped that the effect of this will be reflected in the sales for the next year. The following quantities of salvage were sold during the year:-

Waste paper, all grades	-	22tons 17 cwt	-	£130 17 0
Scrap Metal, all grades	-	6tons 15 cwt	-	£12 10 0
Bottles, all grades	-	172doz	-	£5 0 0
TOTAL	-		-	<u>£148 7 0</u>

6 SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Regular inspections of premises where food is prepared, stored or sold were carried out as a matter of routine and, generally speaking, the condition of these premises was satisfactory. In several cases advice had to be given on improvement in hygiene but no legal enforcement was necessary.

Slaughter Houses

Meat consumed in this area is slaughtered and inspected at the Worcester Abattoir which is supervised by the Worcester City Authority. No complaints regarding the condition of meat allocated to this area were received during the year.

Ice-cream

Number of licences to retail ice-cream 24

Number of licences to manufacture ice-cream 2

14 routine samples were taken from manufacturers and retailers during the year and the results are as follows:-

Grade 1 - 6

Grade 2 - 6

Grade 3 - 2

Grade 4 - Nil

In all cases the premises, methods of sale and production were satisfactory and no action, other than advice, was necessary.

6 SUPERVISION OF FOOD(contd)

Milk Production

The duties remaining with the Local Authority under the Milk and Dairies Order 1949 were carried out but these were not heavy as only 4 dairymen applied for registration.

From observations made it would appear that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Agricultural Executive Committee are concentrating their attention on the production of designated milk and are practically ignoring undesignated milk and the small producer/retailers who sell milk in Rural Areas. This is a matter which is receiving consideration and it is hoped that next year it can be reported that some practical measures are possible to control this type of milk even if it is only for cleanliness.

Food and Drugs Adulteration

The responsibility for this work rests with the Worcestershire County Council.

7 SUPERVISION OF WORK PLACES

The following is a summary of the work carried out under this heading:-

	<u>Registered</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Defects</u>	
			<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Factories with power	27	28	3	3
Factories without power	3	3	nil	nil
TOTAL	30	31	3	3

A Camps and Moveable Dwellings

All camping sites and sites for moveable dwellings were inspected regularly throughout the year. Informal action was necessary on several occasions to remedy insanitary and untidy conditions and the overcrowding of sites but generally speaking the conditions found were very satisfactory.

One new caravan camping site was licensed during the year and the Planning Committee considered the question of private caravan sites for permanent occupation to relieve the housing problem. Spare land on housing sites was considered but was either not available or unsuitable and the acquisition of land for this purpose did not appear to be practicable owing to the lack of public services which were thought to be essential for this type of accommodation.

B Hop-picker's Accomodation

A copy of the report on the housing of hop-pickers, which was prepared by the Medical Officer and myself and submitted to the Public Health Committee, is attached to this report.

C Petrol Supplies

With the de-rationing of petrol the Council decided not to continue to hold bulk supplies and they reverted to purchasing petrol from local garages.

D Petroleum Act, 1928

The total number of storage licences issued during the year was 55 and the gallonage involved was 47,750.

Four new licences were issued and the site and construction of the storage tanks and pumps was carried out under my supervision.

E Rodent Control

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 came into force on the 31st March, 1950. This Act replaced the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919 and placed the responsibility for keeping their district free from rats and mice on this Council instead of the County Council as in the previous Act. Little difference from an administrative point of view is envisaged but the Council will have wider powers in controlling infestations on agricultural land as well as on business premises and private dwellings.

The Council continued charge at cost for work at business premises and to charge 2/6d per hour for destruction work carried out to private dwellings. This charge on private dwellings results in many small accounts being rendered, many of which are difficult to collect and often have to be written off as irrecoverable. Considering the sum of money involved it would appear to be more economical to give a free service to all private property which the operator is requested to treat. A charge for work on

8 MISCELLANEOUS(contd)

Rodent Control (contd)

business premises must still be made as the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries insists on this as a condition of their grant.

The rodent operator was absent through illness for the first three months of the year and this is reflected in the number of treatments carried out, which were as follows:-

	<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Treatments</u>
1.	Private dwellings	40
2.	Business premises	18
3.	Local Authority sewers	7
4.	Local Authority Refuse tips	15
5.	Various other premises	24
	TOTAL	<u>104</u>

MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Accommodation for Hop-Pickers.

Report for 1950.

The hop picking season commenced on the 4th September and, due to the very wet weather and to the heavy crop, extended to the 14th October. The weather this season has been the worst which I have experienced and I understand such a season has not been experienced for many years; an unusual feature this year was that a quantity of hops had to be left unpicked for various reasons.

Hop pickers were housed on 42 farms and the total number imported into the district, according to the Food Office, was 4,600, of which 548 were children under the age of 5. This is 1,000 less than the number employed in the previous year; more gypsies were hired and several farmers were seen actually inviting them on to their land, a strange sight. Owing to the number of prosecutions by some Local Education Authorities last year, the number of school children brought to the hop fields was considerably reduced this time and, even when these were brought by permission, they had to return by September 25th which reduced the number of pickers considerably on some farms. In addition to pickers living on the farms many were transported daily from neighbouring towns and the number of these appeared to us to be greater than in previous years.

Three new hop picking machines were installed in the district this year making a total of 5 in all. The scarcity of pickers and the wet season have induced several more growers to favour mechanical picking and we are aware of at least 10 farms in this area for which new machines have been ordered for next year. On some farms where mechanical picking is used a few hop pickers are imported to assist in working the machine, but these are so few that their accommodation does not present any problems.

Owing to the prevalence of poliomyelitis in the areas from which the pickers are obtained, it was thought prudent to issue a circular to each hop grower advising precautions to be taken in the housing of the pickers and the cleansing of their quarters. In the majority of cases these precautions were carried out very thoroughly before the arrival of the pickers and an inspection of all the farms showed that the quarters were very well cleansed and lime washed.

Nurses were employed by the Worcestershire County Council to work in the hop fields this year and all farms employing imported hop pickers were covered by the arrangements. Any necessary medical attention was given by the local doctors.

No difficulties were reported and the arrangements worked smoothly.

The only cases of infectious disease notified from the hop fields this year were two cases of Scarlet Fever and one case of Dysentery.

No new barracks were erected during the year but several improvements to existing barracks were carried out. We propose to continue our policy of waiting to see which growers intend mechanising their picking before asking for any major alterations in the living accommodation.

Owing to the wet weather the scavenging round the quarters generally was below the usual standard; this was not due to the absence of orderlies but to the fact that the pickers were forced to spend more time in and around their living quarters which made it difficult to clear refuse from the wet and muddy surroundings. Major defects and infringements of the Byelaws related to two farms only, one of which it is proposed to mechanise next year. The owner of the other farm has been instructed to demolish the unsatisfactory quarters and has been warned that if they are used again for accommodating hop pickers proceedings will be taken by the Council under the Byelaws.

Needless to say the water supply was adequate and did not cause us any concern.

Major General W. R. Dimond of the Ministry of Health made two inspections in the district, once before occupation and again whilst the quarters were inhabited, and it appeared to us that he was satisfied with our efforts to provide satisfactory accommodation.

We understand that a visit was paid to certain farms in this district by Members and Officials of Dudley Corporation but we were not notified by them of their intention to do so. Apart from the question of any legal right for such persons to make an official inspection in the area of another Local Authority, it appears to us to be a gross breach of common courtesy to make such a visit without notifying that Authority. This is not the first time that this has occurred and, whilst we have no wish to conceal anything, we should like to be present when such visits are made.

It was hoped that, with a reduction in the number of school children visiting farms and the continued improvement in the type of person being employed, the general improvement which has been noticed over the past 2 or 3 years in the conditions under which pickers live would be maintained. The bad weather this year, however, has caused some set back in this standard but we hope that next year the general appearance of the quarters will again be up to the previous standard.

Margaret C. Foll,

Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt,

Chief Sanitary Officer.

October, 1950.

